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(ICL)

Printed Document Authentication

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BY: Kathy Kunek

#4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF	GROUP 2766
Michael G. Bunn	
SERIAL NO: 09/504,150	RECEIVED
FILED: February 15, 2000	JUN 25 2001
FOR: Printed Document Authentication	Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97-1.98, submitted herewith is Form PTO-1449 along with copies of the 5 references identified therein. Also submitted herewith is a copy of the European search report received on May 25th, 2001, in which these references were cited. This Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed and no fee is required.

US 5671282 (Wolff et al.) describes a document verification method in which a document (such as a prescription) is printed and also stored on a server. A client system (e.g. at a pharmacist's) scans the document, and contacts the server to verify the data in the document.

EP 0782114 (IBM) describes a system for producing verified signatures on documents. The customer presents the document and proof of his/her identity to a signature system, e.g. at a bank or post office. The system then generates an encoded signature, using (a) the customer's private key and (b) data pertaining to the document itself, such as a scanned bit map of the document. The signature is then printed directly onto or otherwise affixed to the document. A recipient can verify the document, by decoding the signature, using the customer's public key. It is then straightforward to verify the decoded signature against the content of the document.

FR 2765014 (Boulnois et al.) describes a method for authenticating a paper document in which particles printed with a magnetic ink are embedded in the paper. At the time of manufacture, the distribution of the particles is measured, and the result is encoded and printed on the document as a bar code. Later, when testing the document for authenticity, the distribution of the particles is measured again, and the result is encoded and compared with the bar code.

US 5748738 (Bisbee et al.) describes a method for digitally signing and authenticating electronic documents, for paperless commercial transactions. There is no suggestion of any way of authenticating printed documents; in fact, this reference explicitly says that it eliminates the need for hard copies.

EP 0729120 (Eastman Kodak Co) describes a method of validating a printed document by printing on the document digital information representing an image of the authorized holder of the document. When the document is to be verified, the image is displayed on a display device.

These last two references were cited merely as "A" category, i.e. technological background.

None of these citations describes or suggests a method as claimed in the present Claim 1, in which there are three separate roles involved: a document producer, an authentication authority, and a document checker. Moreover, there is no suggestion that the document producer sends information to the authentication authority, which then generates an authentication code from the information and sends this back to the document producer for printing in the document.

Thus, despite the European Patent Office's categorization of the first three references as "X" category, it is submitted that the present invention is clearly distinguished from the prior art, and that that the present claims are clearly patentable over the references.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

Date: 6/14/01

Respectfully Submitted

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